

Side – Ruthkhanian

A few months had passed since Ruth started to train her swordsmanship. Those great efforts bore fruit, and now her appearance swinging the sword became good. Thanks to her lineage she had talent for the sword from the start, and her methodical personality only helped, her swordsmanship became beautiful.

“...Why can't you move like that against a person?”

“Even if you ask that... It would hurt if the sword hit...”

“It's your character, huh?”

Koutarou smiled wryly. The problem was Ruth's personality. She had the theory engrained, however she didn't like solving things with violence. Because of this, against a person, her swordsmanship dulled.

“However, you won't be able to hurt someone like that, Ruth-san.”

“I understand it in my head, but... It's quite, umm...”

If you considered Ruth's strength to be 100 against the practice equipment, against a person it didn't even reach 50. No matter how beautiful her swordplay, it was a waste of talent, not enough even for self-defence.

“Satomi-kun, why not limit the Vice-Captain—Ruth-san's sword to a non-lethal weapon?”

Maki, who also participated to the training, proposed this. Her thinking was simple: because you didn't want to hurt someone, if the sword was blunt and couldn't hurt others in the first place, then that would be fine.

“I see. That's good. Ruth-san, let's give it a try. With the Sword of Light.”

“Y-Yes”

With a serious expression, Ruth took out her precious Sword of Light—the

beam sword used by her ancestor, Flair—and created a sword blade which would only give a feeble shock to the opponent. Then, she took a stance holding it in both hands. From her appearance, her hesitation seemed to have disappeared, and her stance became slightly better.

“...Her lineage, huh...”

Seeing Ruth in a stance with the Sword of Light, Koutarou was seized by nostalgic feelings. Be it the appearance or the face, she bore close resemblance to Flair with whom he fought side by side in the past. It was as though she herself stood before him.

“Making that face is troubling, Master...”

At once, Ruth blushed and cast her eyes down. Her posture became a little reserved too. The gentle look that Koutarou sometimes gave was also one of the things that weakened Ruth’s will to fight.

“I’m sorry, Ruth-san”

Koutarou immediately lowered the face guard of his armour. For the training Koutarou wore a full body armour without power. Because Koutarou’s silhouette disappeared completely after lowering the face guard of his helmet, Ruth instantly recovered her stance.

“I’m ready, Ruth-san”

“Here I come!”

With that signal, Ruth quickly closed the distance. She wore little protective gear, so her movements were quick. Reaching him in an instant, she swung down her sword at Koutarou.

“Haa!!”

“Whoah!?”

Koutarou defended hurriedly. Compared to before, Ruth movements were like those of a different person. With heavy armour and a large knight’s sword, defending was the best he could do. The two continued to fight like this for a while.

“...You became stronger, Ruth-san”

“This is the result of your great instruction.”

In the end, wearing the heavy armour, Koutarou’s breath grew ragged, and Ruth’s blow hit his torso. Koutarou had lost but, seeing Ruth’s happiness, he also felt like he’d won. Being able to make others feel like this was Ruth true greatness, however she surely wouldn’t recognise it. He felt it was a slight shame.